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Occupational Employment and Wages in Albuquerque, May 2015

Workers in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $21.36 in May 2015, about 8 percent below the nationwide average of $23.23, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 17 of the 22 major occupational groups, including legal; construction and extraction; and sales and related workers. Wage levels in the five remaining groups were not statistically different from their respective national averages.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 7 of the 22 occupational groups, including architecture and engineering; personal care and service; and construction and extraction. Conversely, employment shares were significantly below their national representation in four groups, including production; transportation and material moving; and computer and mathematical. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Albuquerque		United States	Albuquerque		Percent difference [1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		$23.23	$21.36	*	-8
Management	5.0	5.1		55.30	46.35	*	-16
Business and financial operations	5.1	5.1		35.48	31.00	*	-13
Computer and mathematical	2.9	2.5	*	41.43	36.74	*	-11
Architecture and engineering	1.8	3.4	*	39.89	41.58		4
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	1.1	*	34.24	34.07		0
Community and social service	1.4	1.7	*	22.19	20.39	*	-8
Legal	0.8	0.9	*	49.74	32.88	*	-34
Education, training, and library	6.2	6.1		25.48	24.51		-4
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.4		27.39	22.14	*	-19
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.5		37.40	35.52	*	-5
Healthcare support	2.9	3.6		14.19	13.79		-3
Protective service	2.4	2.6		21.45	17.91	*	-17
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	9.8	*	10.98	9.91	*	-10
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.2		13.02	10.99	*	-16
Personal care and service	3.1	4.1	*	12.33	11.11	*	-10
Sales and related	10.5	10.4		18.90	15.78	*	-17
Office and administrative support	15.8	15.7		17.47	16.26	*	-7

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2015 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Albuquerque		United States	Albuquerque		Percent difference [1]
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	12.67	11.34	*	-10
Construction and extraction	4.0	4.8	*	22.88	18.83	*	-18
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.7		22.11	20.43	*	-8
Production	6.6	2.9	*	17.41	16.33	*	-6
Transportation and material moving	6.9	5.2	*	16.90	16.34		-3

[1] A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Albuquerque is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group–architecture and engineering–was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Albuquerque had 12,780 jobs in architecture and engineering, accounting for 3.4 percent of local area employment, nearly double the 1.8-percent national share. The local average hourly wage for this occupational group was $41.58 compared to the national average of $39.89.

Some of the larger detailed occupations within the architecture and engineering group included electrical engineers (1,660), electrical and electronics engineering technicians (1,070), and mechanical engineers (840). Among the higher paying jobs were chemical engineers and materials engineers, with mean hourly wages of $56.76 and $56.27, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were civil engineering technicians ($20.35) and surveying and mapping technicians ($20.51). (Detailed occupational data for the architecture and engineering group are presented in table 1: for a complete listing of all occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_10740.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Albuquerque metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the architecture and engineering group. For instance, electro-mechanical technicians were employed at 4.5 times the national rate in Albuquerque. Local nuclear engineers and aerospace engineering and operations technicians were both employed at 3.8 times the U.S. average. These location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these three occupations. On the other hand, mechanical drafters had a location quotient of 1.0 in Albuquerque, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.

Notes on Occupational Employment Statistics Data

With the issuance of data for May 2015, the OES program has incorporated redefined metropolitan area definitions as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. OES data are available for 394 metropolitan areas, 38 metropolitan divisions, and 167 OES-defined nonmetropolitan areas. A listing of the areas and their definitions can be found at www.bls.gov/oes/current/msa_def.htm.

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. The OES program produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations for all industries combined in the nation; the 50 states and the District of Columbia; 432 metropolitan areas and divisions; 167 nonmetropolitan areas; and Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. National estimates are also available by industry for NAICS sectors, 3-, 4-, and selected 5- and 6-digit industries, and by ownership across all industries and for schools and hospitals. OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2015 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2015, November 2014, May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, and November 2012. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 73.5 percent based on establishments and 69.6 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.9 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,982 establishments with a response rate of 80 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The May 2015 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Metropolitan area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia Counties in New Mexico.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2015

Occupation [1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level [2]	Location quotient [3]	Hourly	Annual [4]
Architecture and engineering occupations	12,780	1.9	$41.58	$86,490
Architects, except landscape and naval	320	1.3	32.42	67,430
Landscape architects	[5]	[5]	19.38	40,310
Cartographers and photogrammetrists	40	1.2	31.05	64,590
Surveyors	120	1.0	31.42	65,350
Aerospace engineers	470	2.6	50.44	104,920
Biomedical engineers	120	2.1	49.17	102,270
Chemical engineers	60	0.7	56.76	118,060
Civil engineers	710	1.0	42.47	88,340
Computer hardware engineers	290	1.4	45.64	94,920
Electrical engineers	1,660	3.4	44.75	93,080
Electronics engineers, except computer	770	2.1	51.32	106,750
Environmental engineers	200	1.4	43.04	89,520
Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers & inspectors	100	1.5	38.18	79,410
Industrial engineers	[5]	[5]	43.36	90,190
Materials engineers	240	3.2	56.27	117,050
Mechanical engineers	840	1.1	51.75	107,640
Nuclear engineers	170	3.8	[5]	[5]
Engineers, all other	1,690	5.0	53.04	110,320
Architectural and civil drafters	380	1.5	23.83	49,560
Electrical and electronics drafters	100	1.3	24.64	51,250
Mechanical drafters	170	1.0	30.41	63,240
Aerospace engineering and operations technicians	130	3.8	29.99	62,380
Civil engineering technicians	160	0.8	20.35	42,320
Electrical and electronics engineering technicians	1,070	2.8	29.70	61,780
Electro-mechanical technicians	180	4.5	33.82	70,350
Environmental engineering technicians	100	2.1	22.71	47,230
Industrial engineering technicians	[5]	[5]	27.10	56,360
Mechanical engineering technicians	90	0.7	32.97	68,570
Surveying and mapping technicians	140	0.9	20.51	42,660

[1] For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Albuquerque MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_10740.htm.

[2] Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

[3] The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

[4] Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a "year-round, full-time" hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

[5] Estimates not released.